

Activist Profile Sue McIntosh

Sue grew up outside of Golden, Colorado, when Golden was a small rural town (except for the Coors Brewery). She had horses, goats, chickens, and ducks for companions and raised a Black Angus calf.

She got her undergraduate and law degrees at the University of Denver and practiced law with a Denver firm for three years, representing mining companies and other "industrial outlaws." This experience, she says, is what turned her into an environmentalist.

She moved to rural Virginia to enter a Ph.D. program in American History at American University in Washington, D.C., living with six sheep rescued from the Animal Shelter, three goats, a very old horse, and seven dogs. She got sidetracked from her studies by her job as Counsel for the Mineral Policy Center, which took her to mine sites in Montana. From Montana, it wasn't too far to New

Outings, Ski Swaps

(con't from page 23)

Stuck at home on Thanksgiving watching the boob-tube? Join the Albuquerque Group's economy ski adventure to Taos (mostly downhill and Telemark) 24 thru 27 Nov. Non-skiers can do the gallery scene in town. Includes a turkey dinner, and a hot tub splash probably. El Pasoans don't miss it!

Ski Swaps coming up! Folks needing skis and related gear, Alpine or Nordic, watch for the swaps. Lots of fun even if you don't buy anything; and an opportunity to meet new friends and old in a chaotic setting.

Los Alamos is first on Sat 22 Oct, at the Los Alamos Middle School, on North Mesa. Check in items during the morning, 8:30 am to noon. The sale is all afternoon starting at 12:30 pm. Some really good prices for the



Sue, pondering the mysteries of a California tidepool

Mexico and a Sierra Club Executive Committee meeting centering on mining law reform.

By the end of 1991, Sue was in the middle of the "mining mess" and is still in it. She became the Chapter's Mining Issues Chair as well as the Santa Fe Group Representative to the Executive Committee. She played the leading role in developing what became the

early birds. Hot dogs, etc. for sale.

Albuquerque is next on 28 thru 30 Oct, at the State Fairgrounds. Check in items the evening of 28 Oct. Sale all day Sat and Sun. Mobs of people and lots of stuff, so arrive very early on Sat and bring coffee. Don't be deterred by the block-long line. It moves fast once the doors open.

Santa Fe's swap is on 4 thru 6 Nov, at the Sweeny Convention Center, downtown. Check in items Friday afternoon. Pre-sale sale Friday evening. Regular sale all day Saturday and Sunday. All the good stuff is gone by late Sunday morning. Professional ski-fitting available. Optimum opportunities 8 am to 11 am Sat.

New Mexico Mining Act, finding sponsors for the bill, negotiating with the mining industry on provisions of the bill, and getting the bill passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. Her role continues in the development and implementation of regulations for the bill.

According to Chapter Chair Gwen Wardwell, "Without Sue, we would not have the New Mexico Mining Act which is, according to the *New York Times*, the best in the United States."

Meanwhile, as Sue now only has six dogs for animal company, she has taken up the cause of wildlife and is working to expand the wildlife and habitat protection services of the Game and Fish Department.

Membership

☐ Yes, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

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RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

News of the Rio Grande Chapter
Sierra Club • September/October 1994

Governor Bruce King: Partner in Environmental Advocacy

For the Sierra Club, and for the natural resources of this state, the campaign for the governor's office is one of the most important. During the last four years, the Sierra Club has undertaken a campaign of its own, to create a more substantial and proactive environmental presence in New Mexico state government. The success of that campaign is dependent on a favorable presence in the Governor's office. Since 1992, the environmental community has achieved passage of the Solid Waste Act (1992), the New Mexico Mining Act (1993), the New Mexico Tire Recycling Act (1994) and establishment and funding of the Conservation Services Division of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (1994). The Sierra Club has led many of those legislative fights, and we plan to continue to pursue a strategy at the Roundhouse that produces good conservation legislation which is so sorely needed in New Mexico.

But the Sierra Club's increased activity in state government means more than what happens every January in the state legislature. Every day of the year, decisions are made by state agencies, commissions and boards, which have profound implications for the conservation and preservation of the natural resources of the state. Sierra Club volunteers

throughout the Rio Grande Chapter interact, on a continuing basis, with representatives of the Executive Branch of government in New Mexico as part of our efforts to increase the awareness of environmental problems and to protect our natural resources. Those representatives of state government are, in a very real sense, representatives of the Governor himself. Their conduct is directed by the policy and informal guidance emerging from the governor's office. Indeed, at many levels of government, the character of the people in the Executive Branch is a reflection of the character of the Governor. Change in the Governor's office results in change throughout state government.

Four years ago, Bruce King was elected Governor of New Mexico, for a third non-consecutive term. The most recent King administration has been a time of explosive opportunity for the Sierra Club in its campaign to protect natural resources. The past four years have not been years of the Governor's office leading and the environmental community following on conservation issues. Rather, Governor King gave the environmental community the broad opportunity to lead and we have capitalized. We have developed the proposed legislation, advocated it in legislative hearings, defended it in front of state government, industry, and through the media, to the people of New Mexico.

Governor King has joined the Sierra Club as a partner in strong advocacy of those most important issues for the environment. Many of these issues have been brought to the Governor by the Sierra Club, and he and his staff have closely listened, appreciated good arguments which demonstrated the validity of our positions, and joined with the environmental community in an effort to educate the people of New Mexico and to solve many of its environmental problems.

The Sierra Club endorses:

For Governor/Lt. Gov.:
Bruce King/Patricia Madrid

For Attorney General:
Tom Udall

For Commissioner of Public Land:
Ray Powell

For U.S. House, District 3 (NM):
Bill Richardson

For U.S. House, District 16 (Texas):
Ron Coleman

For State Legislature:

District Name	Party/City
3 Darla Whitney-Wells	D-Aztec
4 Thomas Atcity	D-Shiprock
5 Robert David Pederson	D-Gallup
11 Rick Miera	D-Albuquerque
15 Raymond G. Sanchez	D-Bernalillo Co.
18 Cisco McSorley	D-Albuquerque
25 Danice Picraux	D-Albuquerque
26 Ramon Huerta	D-Albuquerque
40 Nick Salazar	D-San Juan Pueblo
41 Debbie Rodella	D-San Juan Pueblo
44 Robert A. Perl	D-Corral
46 Ben Lujan	D-Santa Fe
47 Max Coll	D-Santa Fe
48 Luciano 'Lucky' Varela	D-Santa Fe
50 Gary King	D-Moriarty
65 James Roger Madalena	D-Jemez Pueblo
68 Jose Abeyta	D-Wagon Mound
69 Lynda Morgan	D-Crownpoint

Bruce King is a figure of great influence in New Mexico and he speaks to a broad range of interests. When it is Governor King who steps into negotiations on a state mine reclamation law and suggests to mining industry executives that if they try to "rat hole" the legislation, he will personally resurrect it and hold a special legislative session until good legislation is passed, the result is the New Mexico Mining Act.

The King administration record on environmental issues is a positive one:

-Creation of a cabinet level Environment

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The *Rio Grande Sierran* is published by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club as a benefit for Sierra Club members living in New Mexico and West Texas. (Make address changes by calling Membership Services at (415) 923-5653.) Non-member subscriptions at \$10 per year are available from the Albuquerque office; please allow 8 weeks for processing.

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Contributions are welcomed from members and non-members. Send to *Rio Grande Sierran*, c/o B. Johnson, 1 Encantado Loop, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Articles should be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Preferred format is on Macintosh disc as Microsoft Word file. Other formats may be compatible--check with the Production Manager. Letters and articles are subject to abridgement.

Printed on 100% post-consumer waste newsprint by PrintWorld in El Paso.

LETTERS

Dear Editor:

Well, O.K., it had to happen, I guess. There I sat, enthusiastically devouring the text of *Rolling Stone*. This day, though, bliss was illusive. I thumbed through the pages and found an interview with Jim Baca.

There it was: *Rolling Stone*, June 30, 1994, Issue 564, page 45. Jim Baca.

While I am blown away that I now know and have actually talked to somebody in *Rolling Stone*, as I read the interview, some old concerns resurfaced. Many of you have or will probably read the article. Jim talks about Washington, the West, and New Mexico--old and new. I found this exchange particularly interesting:

"*Rolling Stone*: What is the West, then?"

"*Jim Baca*: Let me give you an example. Most people probably think New Mexico's this rural state, but in actuality we're probably the third or fourth most urban state in the country. And the people who have moved here, and who are continuing to move here, come here for the quality of life, come here for the environment. That's how the West has changed."

The logical extension of this sentiment, Jim, has become the unspoken credo of the "New West" movement. It is that New Mexico is: 1) already urban, 2) likely to do nothing but get more urban, and therefore, 3) the "old way"--the rural way. . .well, get along little doggies, it was quaint, but it's all over now.

But we are not now in the vanguard of the "New West" movement. Andrew Jackson firmly established himself as the spokesman for an already established "New West" movement. If our concern is the cowboy, President Jackson's was the American Indian:

"My convictions on this subject have been confirmed; that those tribes cannot exist surrounded by our settlements and in continual contact with our citizens is certain. They have neither the intelligence, the industry, the moral habits nor the desire of improvement which are essential to any favorable change in their condition. Established in the midst of another and superior race and without appreciating the causes of their inferiority or seeking to control them, they must necessarily yield to the force of circum-

stances and ere long disappear." (Andrew Jackson, 1833)

It has been said of a time when the North could not live with the outdated South and the South could not be forced to remain subservient to the North that the issue of slavery:

"...had an effect which no other sectional factor exercised in isolating North and South from each other. As they became isolated, instead of reacting to each other as they were in actuality, each reacted to a distorted mental image of the other...[O]rdinary, resolvable disputes were converted into questions of principle, involving rigid, unnegotiable dogma...It transformed political action from a process of accommodation to a mode of combat." (*The Impending Crisis 1848-1861*, David M. Potter [1976], p. 43)

So now, pushing out from Albuquerque, etc., there comes the "New Urban West," bumping the noses of its VWs and Range Rovers not so gently in the rear of the cowboys' pick-up trucks. I wish more people agreed with the way I feel about all of this, but I would be satisfied with much less than that. When we are out hawking the "New West" to the people out there, we at least ought to be honest with ourselves and certain about what we are actually seeking. New Mexico is in the middle of yet another in its long history of invasions. This one is subtler than the others, but, still, it is not an invading population which tries to accommodate local customs.

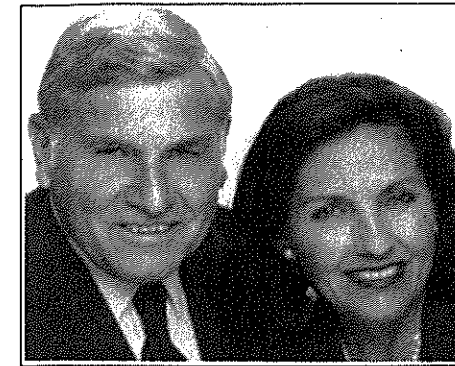
It sounds like it is time to start thinking again, carefully, about what we are doing. Are we, indeed, reacting to a "distorted mental image of the other[s]"? Are "ordinary, resolvable disputes" . . . [being] converted into questions of principle, involving rigid, unnegotiable dogma. . .?"

I don't think this is a healthy development. I was born and have spent all but a few years in the West, and I don't appreciate it. Moreover, it is not necessary. Is it necessary to remind New Mexico that some of its rural people contribute so little to the new urban economy that their demise would be but a ripple in the modern, urban economic engine of New Mexico?

(con't on page 23)

Gov. King: Partner in Environmental Advocacy

(con't from page 1)



Department.

-Promulgation of strict regulations to fully implement the New Mexico Solid Waste Act.

-Enactment of the New Mexico Mining Act (legislation carried by the Governor's son, Representative Gary King [D-Moriarty]).

-Appointment of Ray Powell as State Land Commissioner, upon the Sierra Club's recommendation.

-Appointment of Val Green, Jeannie Cragen, and Art Montana to the New Mexico Mining Commission.

-Enactment of the New Mexico Tire Recycling Act (legislation carried by the Governor's son, Representative Gary King [D-Moriarty]).

-Establishment by statute and general appropriations funding of the Conservation Services Division in the Game and Fish Department.

-Strong advocacy for federal legislation to provide strong and comprehensive reform of the 1872 Mining Law, including provisions for suitability determinations.

-Strong advocacy protecting New Mexico from introduction of high level nuclear waste storage facilities.

-Funding youth conservation activities in excess of \$1 million.

-Significant strengthening amendments to the New Mexico Water Quality Act regarding enforcement and penalties for violation.

-Support for citizens fighting to protect the Ortiz Mountains from the adverse ecological impacts of cyanide mining proposed there.

Governor King has vowed to keep the momentum going in his next administration. A sampling includes the following:

At the August 16th meeting of the New Mexico Game Commission, the Commission

passed, with the Governor's support, a FY 1996 budget request for the Conservation Services Division which can finally fully fund that critical division so that it is able to implement all of the wildlife and habitat protection and conservation programs needed.

Governor King has committed to work with the Sierra Club to develop and support state legislation which will finally implement a plan for handling water quality and quantity issues in New Mexico, which recognizes the growing imperative for planning, coordination and conservation. Vickie Gabin, the Rio Grande Chapter's water issues chair will work closely with representatives of the Governor's office and state agencies to achieve this goal.

Governor King has committed to work with the Sierra Club to develop and support legislation which finally enables the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to implement a wildlife program which is protective of all ecological values and to continue to inventory, protect, and restore critical headwaters watershed values.

The next four years can be years of even greater opportunity for the Sierra Club to advocate and achieve success in protection of New Mexico's natural resources. Or they can be years of entrenchment and constant defense of the success that we and the King administration have worked together to achieve, against a less than affectionate Republican administration. That is the choice.

The New Mexico Green Party characterizes its offering as one of change in New Mexico state government. Yet the Sierra Club, the environmental community, and the King administration have already achieved profound change in New Mexico during the past four years. That change is seen today on the ground in protection of our natural resources statewide. The kind of long-term social and governmental change which the New Mexico Green Party advocates in this election is something with which some members of the Sierra Club ultimately agree and others may not. In order to achieve its long-term goals, however, the Green Party asks us to make short-term sacrifices.

The Sierra Club Executive Committee chose not to place New Mexico's natural resources at risk for the next four years. The Sierra Club deals with environmental resources - fragile, complex and extremely limited natural systems. The nature of this

state's natural resources is such that their sacrifice is profound and often irretrievable. Unlike other interests and issues, when the environment is used as a tool to grow a principle of government, it is not a temporary use. The loss of a 150 year old ponderosa pine forest to an open pit mine or a timber sale is a permanent loss. The loss of thousands of acres of wildlife habitat to residential and commercial development is not reversible, regardless of the change which may come in the long term.

It is the responsibility of the Sierra Club to protect the environment. The Executive Committee of the Sierra Club feels that responsibility keenly, as it always has, and must place that responsibility in front of others. It is fitting for Sierra Club members, who spend as much time as possible close to the land, to be the group to put absolute protection of that land above all else. Happily, with the endorsement of Bruce King for Governor of New Mexico, we fulfill that responsibility and we commit to aggressively pushing forward in the campaign we began four years ago to bring treatment of New Mexico's natural resources into the 21st century. We look forward to working in partnership with the next King administration and all others who will help on the issues of priority for present and future generations of the Sierra Club.

Madrid Good Choice for Lt. Gov.

Patricia Madrid is a former District Court judge and long-time political activist. Among her environmental priorities are establishment of a state environmental assessment program similar to the federal requirement for environmental impact studies, and more effective programs for the prevention of pollution.

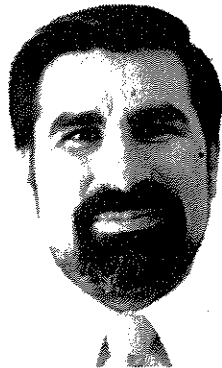
A special concern of the Sierra Club is the need to establish a program for "environmental justice," which would eliminate present practices whereby a disproportionate share of the nation's pollution is visited upon lower socio-economic neighborhoods. Madrid has long been interested in this issue, and she pledged to use the office of Lieutenant Governor to fight for "environmental justice" in New Mexico. Her response to all the questions put to her indicate that she will be an active, dedicated environmentalist as Lieutenant Governor.

Rio Grande Chapter Endorses State Legislative Candidates



Darla Whitney-Wells (D-Aztec [above]) fought to defund the "pork-barrel" Animas-LaPlata water project in favor of more realistic water projects.

Thomas Atcitty (D-Shiprock [below]) has



Rick Miera (D-Albuquerque [above]) has consistently voted for environmental issues on the House floor and has been a strong advocate of Trail System legislation.

Ray Sanchez (D-Bernalillo Co. [below])



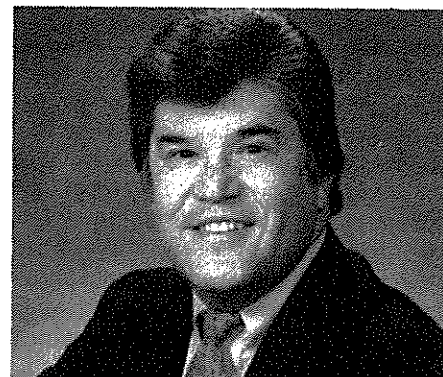
issues.

Danice Picraux (D-Albuquerque [above]), named as the Sierra Club's "Freshman of the Year" in 1992, is the most effective supporter of recycling legislation.



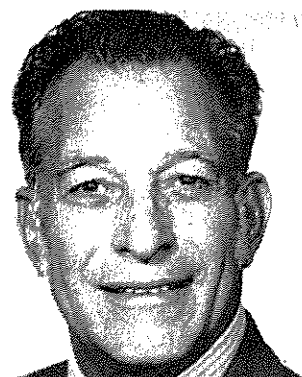
consistently voted in favor of environmental issues on the House floor.

Robert David Pederson (D-Gallup [below]) fought tenaciously against takings legislation in the Judiciary Committee. He also is against expansion of missile use at Ft. Wingate.



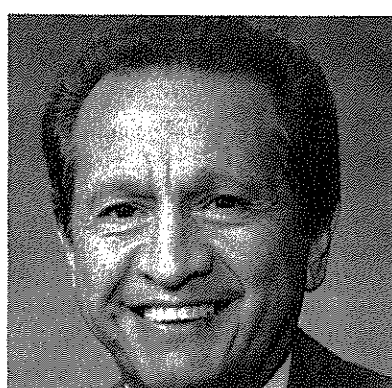
as House Speaker has assured floor consideration and background support for key environmental issues.

Cisco McSorley (D-Albuquerque [below]), endorsed by the Sierra Club in the Mayoral Primary, has been a consistent and outspoken champion on many environmental



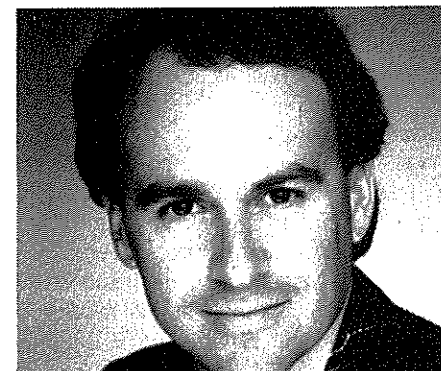
Ramon Huerta (D-Albuquerque [above]) is a fighter on environmental justice issues.

Nick Salazar (D-San Juan Pueblo [below]) has been a consistent friend as vice chairman of the Energy Committee and in his seat on Appropriations.



Debbie Rodella (D-San Juan Pueblo [above]) was chief co-sponsor, with Shirley Baca, of the beverage recycling bill.

Robert Perls (D-Corrales [below]) has stuck his neck out on many occasions to



support measures for recycling and transportation alternatives and against takings.

Ben Lujan (D-Santa Fe [below]) sponsored a measure to initiate statewide water planning.



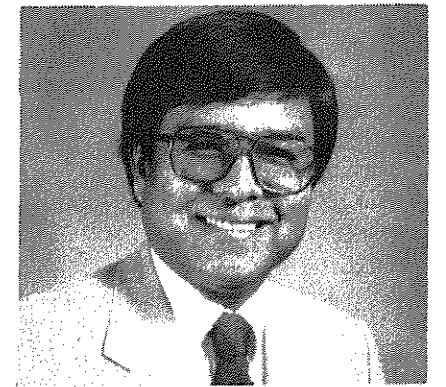
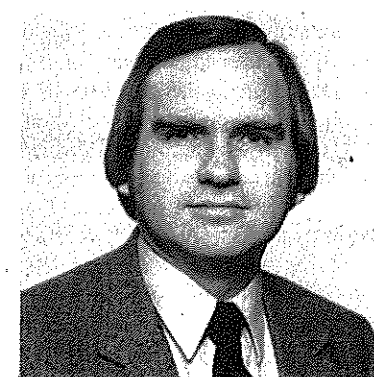
Max Coll (D-Santa Fe [above]), chair of the Appropriations Committee, is arguably the environment's most effective advocate in the Roundhouse.

Luciano "Lucky" Varela (D-Santa Fe [below]), as chair of the appropriations subcommittee overseeing environmental spend-



ing, has ensured support for funding in times of give and take on that all-important committee.

Gary King (D-Moriarty [below]) fought for three years to gain passage of the Sierra Club's top priority, mining reform. Energy reform, recycling, and planning are among the other many interests he pursues legisla-



tively.

James Roger Madalena (D-Jemez Pueblo [above]), as chair of the Energy Committee, is scrupulously fair but votes decidedly with environmentalists. A champion of renewable energy.

Jose Abeyta (D-Wagon Mound [below])



is a solid supporter on the Energy Committee. From a rural district, he has courageously fought ADC funding.

Lynda Morgan (D-Crownpoint [below]) has exercised good judgement in her support of environmental issues, especially on issues before the Energy Committee.

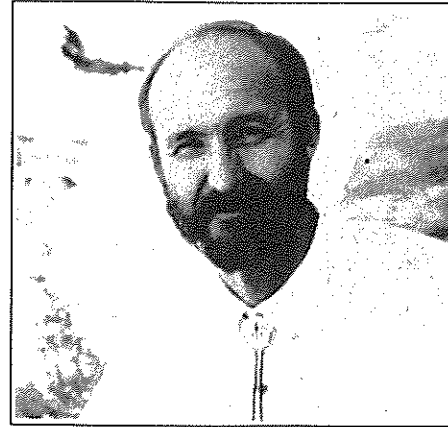


Chapter Endorses Ray Powell for Land Commissioner

As Commissioner of Public Lands, Ray Powell has kept in place a moratorium on leasing state land for hard rock mining until mining reform laws are in place. He has also continued the ban on Animal Damage Control (ADC) on State lands until ADC is reformed.

Powell has initiated the first inventory of threatened plant species on state land. He has pledged to establish an environmental services division to stop ecological disasters before they occur. And he is planning state lands near New Mexico cities to become model developments of sustainability.

In addition, he has worked with the oil and gas industry to prevent bat and bird deaths from oil processing equipment.. (See "Open Letter" on page 22.)



The Rio Grande Chapter believes he should be elected to the position of Commissioner of Public Lands.

The Sierra Club Enthusiastically Supports Tom Udall for Re-election as Attorney General

The Rio Grande Chapter enthusiastically endorses the re-election of Tom Udall as New Mexico's Attorney General.

Mr. Udall's major field of interest and focus while serving as New Mexico's Attorney General has been the environment. His most recent efforts have been directed towards stopping construction of the OLE power line through the Jemez Mountains, where he has proposed strong alternatives that will meet the electrical service needs at similar cost without the significant degradation of environmental and Native American religious values that would result if the PNM plan is adopted.

Several years ago Tom began litigation against the US Department of Energy which

successfully stopped the trucks carrying nuclear waste from rolling through New Mexico until such time as the Waste Isolation Pilot Project facility meets all regulatory requirements. It was a case that he argued himself on behalf of the people of New Mexico.

Tom was instrumental in the establishment of the Enforcement Division within the Department of Environment and has aggressively pursued Richard Cook to assure that Mr. Cook complies with New Mexico's environmental regulations. After giving strong support in the effort to pass New Mexico's Mining Act, he has used his influence to encourage the Attorneys General of other states to support reform of the 1872 Federal Mining Act. And he has been a moving force behind the adoption of Clean Water Act Regulations.

In the summer of 1995, Tom will become President of the National Association of Attorneys General. It is the tradition of this association to focus on a theme selected by the then president during the year of his/her term, moving that focus to better law enforcement in the given area of concern. Tom's focus will be the environment.

We believe that Tom Udall represents a clear, strong voice for the environment both nationally and locally. We urge his re-election in November.



Incumbent Rep. Ron Coleman Is Endorsed for Re-election

Ron Coleman, the incumbent congressman from the 16th District of Texas, has been endorsed in his bid for re-election. "Clean air and clean water are the greatest challenges facing El Paso today. Addressing the unique environmental hazards along the U.S.-Mexico border is my highest environmental priority," he said in response to a question about the environmental issue of greatest concern.

The Sierra Club has endorsed Congressman Coleman several times since he first ran for Congress in 1982. He has demonstrated a consistent commitment to the environment since his days as a Texas state legislator when he authored and introduced the legislation to create the Franklins Mountain State Park.

In response to another question he said, "I look forward to the opportunity to work with Rep. Richardson next year in passing a good BLM Wilderness bill for New Mexico." Congressman Coleman has supported many wilderness bills and most recently voted with the majority to pass the California Deserts Protection Act.

Ron Coleman has a better than 70% positive environmental voting record for the current session of Congress which began in January 1993 and he has co-sponsored some key environmental bills. He has maintained this environmental good voting record throughout his Congressional career.

We ask that all Sierra Club members and other environmentalists who live in the 16th District of Texas cast your vote for the environment and for Ron Coleman in November. If you would like to help with his re-election campaign, please call Tom Brasfield at 584-8739.



Further endorsements may be made. If so, they will be reported in the November/December issue of the Sierran.

Representative Bill Richardson: Our Best Friend in Congress

U.S. Representative Bill Richardson, District 3, has one of the highest ratings for advocating environmental legislation in the U.S. Congress.

He has fought for grazing reform, mining reform, for BLM wilderness and for many other issues of concern to the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club.

His recent appointment as Majority Whip has greatly enhanced his ability to ensure

passage of effective environmental legislation.

The Rio Grande Chapter cannot advocate too strongly for Rep. Richardson's re-election to the House. He is simply the best friend we have in Congress.

We urge you to vote for him and to actively work for his re-election. If you are interested in working for Rep. Richardson's campaign, call his Santa Fe office at 988-7230.



Letters

(con't from page 2)

Nor is it productive to write off the only citizens of the state of New Mexico who seem capable of generating any broad-based action on a grassroots level. I am proud that Catron County is part of New Mexico. Those people (the real people, not the corporate "Wise Use" managers) are independent, stubborn, spirited individuals, with whom many of us disagree regarding the use of natural resources.

There is a disagreement within the Sierra Club as well as the rest of the environmental community regarding the worth of rural New Mexico as it exists today and may exist tomorrow. Some of us think it is priceless--because we have seen the alternatives. Others believe it will go, as has been said, the way of the corner grocery store.

Well, these people in the country are fighting to stay home. To stay on the land. They must like it. I don't blame them, I like it, too. I'd fight if somebody told me they would just as soon prefer that I go away. So, it looks like many of us are fighting about what is best for the land about which we all care very much. If that is the case, why are we not working with these rural people, instead of against them? Why do we prefer political candidates who do not speak to these people instead of candidates who can speak to us and to them?

Yes, yes, I have been told by the likes of Dave Forman (a guy I think is very smart) and several other highly regarded enviros in the West that we have tried, tried, tried to work with the Aggies, but without success. There is little need to try any more cooperation.

Sue L. McIntosh
P.O. Box 22566
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Welcome, New Members

Please welcome the following new members who have joined us during January through May of this year:

Carolyn Cover, Albuquerque
Paula Cook-Cooper, Albuquerque
R. Vaughan, Albuquerque
Albert Hussman, Albuquerque
Richard Komrusch, Albuquerque
Paul Schneider, Albuquerque
Michael Krasnow, Albuquerque
Virginia Cramer, Albuquerque
Charles Hass, Rio Rancho
Y. Cavanov, Rio Rancho
Mr. Peter Herber, Rio Rancho
Athena McDevitt, Albuquerque
Harry Marinakis, Albuquerque
Georgia Jannuzzi, Albuquerque
Michael Good, Albuquerque
Mandy Shaffer, Gallup
Sheri Pueblo, Crownpoint
David Eck, Zuni
Craig Montgomery, Santa Fe
Michael Tatom, Santa Fe
Mark Bundy, Santa Fe
Stan Thompson, Santa Fe
Sue Katz, Santa Fe
Jason Dickman, Santa Fe
Ms. G. Nathan, Santa Fe
William Hoadley, Santa Fe
Virginia Nydes, Santa Fe
Richard Erdoes, Santa Fe
David Hyde, Santa Fe
Gene Harrison, Santa Fe
Ms. Pamela Canyonriver, Santa Fe
Paula King, Santa Fe
Richard & Polly Ferber, Santa Fe
Camilla Jewell, Santa Fe
Sharon Elias, Santa Fe
Mr. Clinton Dalton, Santa Fe
John Baggett, Santa Fe
Mary Luders, Santa Fe
William Pearson, Santa Fe
Nancy Nickerson, Santa Fe

Lisa Nola, Santa Fe
Kari Smith, Santa Fe
Jacqueline Boyce, Santa Fe
Frank Herdman, Santa Fe
Sharon Little, Santa Fe
Annette Youngblood, Los Alamos
Mr. Richard Lelecheur, Los Alamos
Ms. Molly Cernicek, Los Alamos
Christine Siciliano, Los Alamos
Roland Bibeau, Los Alamos
Dr. Madeline Goulard, Ojo Caliente
Kathleen Weidner, Ranchos de Taos
Hillis Garlick, Taos
Mr. Charles Lonsdale, Taos
Sierra Hardy, Taos
Wayde Grinstead, Taos
Bettina Lancaster, Tesuque
Ms. Barbara Dubois, Socorro
Mr. Michael Ripen, Socorro
Bob Jones, Socorro
Paul Marshall, Truth or Consequences
Virginia Payton Hoge, Hatch
Mrs. M. Ray, Winston
W. P. And E. Herriman, Las Cruces
Josh Arnold, Las Cruces
Jim And Lois McCloy, Las Cruces
Richard And Jeanne Rundell, Las Cruces
Henri Vargas, Las Cruces
Marianne Adams, Las Cruces
Gregory Watson, Las Cruces
Helen Bigelow, Anthony
Mr. Paul Renshaw, Silver City
Mr. Dan Davis, Roswell
Nelwyn Martin, Roswell
Steve West, Carlsbad
Larry Ford, Hobbs
Floyd Winn, Capitán
Rainey Nasewylawa, Mesalero
Linda Reynolds, Ruidoso
Roy Martin, APO 96205

Sierra Club Plans a Velvet Revolution

by Susan Gorman

It's time for revolutionary changes to create a more vital Sierra Club. Through its 100 year history, the Sierra Club has continuously evolved and grown while retaining its democratic character. But any organization must be prepared to change to meet new challenges and the Club is no exception.

In the last issue of the *Sierran*, we published a restructuring resolution and the request from Robbie Cox, President of the Club's Board of Directors, for members to provide ideas for the new organizational structure. The Restructuring Task Force initiated PROJECT RENEWAL and received input from hundreds of members. Using those members' ideas, the Task Force has prepared a Draft Proposal and has asked for more member input before the Annual Meeting, September 22-25, when the Board will consider revisions and modifications before adopting the final plan.

The proposal will change the ways that we work together at all levels of the Club.

The Council of Leaders, which is composed of a delegate from each Chapter (including me as the Rio Grande Chapter's delegate), will meet with the Board of Directors once a year to address critical concerns of Chapters and Groups and to advise the Board on all aspects of Club activity.

The Board and the Council have been existing Club entities and have well-developed methods for addressing issues and solving problems. The challenge will be to discover the right means for this combined Board and Council to truly communicate at the annual meeting and in between to promote better understanding of the challenges we all face.

The newly constituted Conservation Committee will be responsible for the coordination and strategic planning of the Club's conservation programs. Strategy Teams will be formed for the major conservation areas: Lands/water (Preserving the Wild Planet); Energy; Pollution; Environmentally sustainable economy; Population; and International.

These Strategy Teams will explore ways to enhance opportunities for volunteers and to develop creative ways to involve more activists (that's US!). Lots of emphasis is placed on using electronic communication such as E mail, fax, and phone conferencing to supplement direct mail "Action Alerts." At the same time, we have NOT lost sight of the importance of face to face meetings.

The best part of the proposal in my view is that the functions of the Regional Conservation Committees (RCCs) and the Ecoregion Task Forces will be combined. This will not be easily done and there will be some initial confusion, I suspect. But, in the long run, this is the right path to take.

Another excellent part of the proposal is that a portion of the time and funding of the Regional Staff will be allocated to regional conservation work and ecoregion projects and the RCCs which will set the priorities with input from the Chapters and Groups.

Okay, so what does this really mean for all of us way down at the Grassroots? We get more! More staffing, more issue and membership organizing, and more training for volunteer management. Through participation in the issue/activist networks, we get more information and more inclusion in national conservation actions.

This summary does not do justice to the full extent of the restructuring. Anyone who wants to know more can order a copy of the Draft Proposal by sending a postcard to Susan Gorman, 2226B Wyoming NE, #272, Albuquerque, NM 87112, or by phoning me at 505-265-3231.

ALBUQUERQUE

Group Directory

1994 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office Telephone: 265-5506

Group Chair	Jay Sorenson	884-4314
Vice Chair	Ron Grotbeck	296-0944
Secretary	Blair Brown	265-3231
Treasurer	Richard Barish	247-8079
	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370
	Nick Persampieri	281-7845
	David Morrison	344-8693
	Susan Gorman	265-3231

The Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club depends entirely on the efforts of volunteers. To help our efforts, call the following issue coordinators:

ADMINISTRATION

Activities/	vacant	
Special Planning		
Books/	vacant	
Calendars		
Newsletter	Dorothy Brethauer	275-6113
Outings	David Morrison	344-8693
	Stan Kauchak	292-9138
Programs	Ralph Wrons	275-0856

CONSERVATION

Conservation	Susan Gorman	265-3231
Chair		
Air Quality	Heidi Fleischmann	260-1217
Bosque	Richard Barish	247-8079
Energy	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Las Huertas	Marion Davidson	867-5178
Mining Reform	Blair Brown	265-3231
Petroglyphs/		
Westside	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
	Nick Persampieri	281-7845
Population	Michelle Meaders	266-8823
Public Lands	Barbara Stone	265-5304
Waste/	David Bouquin	265-7853
Recycling		
Water	Jack Pinney	293-3405
Wildlife/	vacant	
Endangered Species		
Wildlife/	Susan Larsen	897-2527
Mexican Wolf		

ALBUQUERQUE

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING: WATER CONSERVATION

by Ralph Wrons

Water conservation practices will be key to the long term habitability and a good quality of life in the greater Albuquerque area. Look around you anytime and you can see that Albuquerque was raised on a high water table diet. But the facts are beginning to roll in as you have no doubt read and it's clear we need to encourage a change in water-using practices.

Many times you may feel powerless and perhaps overwhelmed in what you can do to bring about change. The best place of course is to begin at home. City of Albuquerque water rates have increased twice in the last four years, but still remain bargain basement low. This can't be the incentive to change your home water-use practices now. But it is a strategy the City is considering, so perhaps the challenge could be to have in place your low water consumption lifestyle when that time comes.

If you have an interest in designing and planting/converting your yard(s) to low water use landscaping or just want to see a colorful slideshow, the September program is meant for you. The practice is called xeriscaping (yes, another word, "xeros", bothered from the Greeks) and the well-respected practitioner is Judith Phillips. Judith has written two books (the second about to be published) on the subject and has a wealth of knowledge and a water-saving conviction to share.

Start landscaping now?, you say! No, not yet. Come to the meeting, take in the program, plan your landscape over the winter, start scratching soil in early spring and be ready to plant by the summer. The September meeting will be on the third Monday, the 19th, beginning 7:30 PM. We meet in room 2402 of the UNM Law School, NW corner of Stanford and Constitution NE. Please bring a cup and share in the refreshments provided by the Albuquerque Group.

OCTOBER MEETING

There will be a program in October, the details of which were not quite worked out by press time. We will meet as usual on the third Monday evening of the month, the 17th, beginning at 7:30 PM, also in the same place afforded to us over the years, the UNM Law School, room 2402.

STATE FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed to collect donations for parking at the Sierra Club office during the NM State Fair. This is one of Albuquerque Group's best local fundraising events. Volunteers are needed for three-hour shifts between 9 am and 9 pm, from September 9 through the 25th. Call David Morrison at 344-8693.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society is sponsoring a hawkwatching trip on Saturday, September 24 in the Manzanos. For further information call Jeff Myers, 268-8457.

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History will be showing a new film at the Dynamax Theater in September, "Yellowstone." Movies begin on the hour between 10 am and 5 pm every day the museum is open.

September 8 and 9: "Reduce Your Use - Save our Water," the forum on the Mayor's Water Conservation Program. If you can go, call Jack Pinney for details.

CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place at the Club office at 207 San Pedro NE.

Sept 6:	Activities & Special Planning Meeting, 7PM.
Sept 7:	Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.
Sept 12:	Executive Committee Meeting, 7PM.
Sept 19:	Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2402, 7:30 PM.
Sept 26:	Conservation Working Session, 7:00 PM.
Oct 4:	Activities & Special Planning Meeting, 7PM.
Oct 5:	Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.
Oct 10:	Executive Committee Meeting, 7PM.
Oct 15:	12 noon. Deadline for articles for Nov-Dec group newsletter. Macintosh preferred. Call Dorothy if supplying hardcopy only.
Oct 17:	Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2402, 7:30 PM.
Oct 24:	Conservation Working Session, 7:00 PM.

ALBUQUERQUE

OUTINGS

Abbreviations: WSA - Wilderness Study Area SW-Sandia Wilderness NM-National Monument SC-Sierra Club NRA-National Recreation Area

Outings may be cancelled or changed due to weather or other reasons, please call leader before outing.

Sometime September

Strenuous Miles: ? Car: Plenty
Mt. Rushmore, South Dakota
 This is the mountain with some of the presidents' faces, and the high point in South Dakota.
 Leader: Stefan Verchinski 888-1370

Fri- Mon Sept 2-5 Moderate- Strenuous
 Miles: 12-25 Car: 200

Pecos Wilderness Backpack

Plan on joining the Dallas Sierra Club Group over Labor Day weekend on their annual Pecos Wilderness backpack. Several options on locations. Call for details.
 Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301

Sat- Sun Sept. 10- 11 Moderate
 Miles: 12? Car:350

Overnight Car Camp

Bisti Badlands Wilderness Area

Look for fossils and explore the geology of the San Juan Basin. Albuquerque group will meet Sat. morning at Sunwest Bank, 6201 San Mateo NE at 9:30AM. We will rendezvous with the Santa Fe group in San Ysidro. For more information call Georgia Jannuzzi at 881-9365.
 Leader: John Turnbull

Sat Sept 10 Leisure
 Miles: 3 Car: 3

Rinconada Canyon Hike, Petroglyph NM

After a severe drought between 1275 and 1300 AD, Indians began to settle along the Rio Grande in large numbers. Records of the Spanish indicate walking from one cultivated field of the Indian's to the next within Albuquerque. RSVP.
 Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun Sept 11 Strenuous
 Miles: 8 Car:120

East Fork Box, Jemez Wild and Scenic River Hike

We will head down the East Fork in a open valley on trail, and then we will wade and scramble through the narrows back into an

open valley to our shuttled cars. You must have shoes to wade in. No river shoes allowed. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:00AM, behind Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy.
 Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat Sept 17 Leisure

Miles: 1 Car: 140

Fall Raptor Migration, Manzanos Tour

We drive up a bumpy dirt road to Capilla Peak in the Manzanomountains. Hawk Watch International will be counting and trapping raptors. Ospreys, golden eagles, bald eagles, and peregrine falcons are just a few of the raptors to be sighted. Bring binoculars. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro NE.
 Leader: David Thume 271-1839

Sun Sept 18 Leisure

Miles: 3 Car: 3

Geological Windows Hike, Petroglyph NM

Most petroglyphs in the monument are done in the Rio Grande style. The Rio Grande style lasted from 1300 AD until the Pueblo Revolt in 1680. Spanish repression, nonnative epidemics, crop failures, and raids by nomadic Indians were the precursors of this revolt that drove the Spaniards to El Paso. The Rio Grande pueblos fled to the mountains, and to the Hopi's and the preNavaho tribes. RSVP.
 Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun Sep 18 Leisure

Miles: 4 Car:20

Waterfall Canyon Hike, Sandia Mountain Wilderness

The Sandia Ranger District Ranger, Floyd Thompson has included the human element in its new ecosystem approach. This now means that development in the Sandias is at an all time high; trailhead parking is closed, with no alternatives; reserved picnic sites are misbooked for two groups; and reservation literature lists only part of the fees. Walk to waterfall and cave, continue on to the south crest if group is enthusiastic. Bring lunch. Meet at SC office at 9:00AM
 Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat- Sun Sep 24- 25 Intermediate

Miles: 10+ Car: 350+

Tres Piedras Mountain Bike Ride

Lets take a drive to Tres Piedras and explore service roads along the Pinos River. Car

camp Saturday night at the Rio Grande Scenic and Wild River recreation site just north of Questa. Sunday travel a BLM service road that parallels the Rio Grande gorge. "Bike Till You Drop". Helmets mandatory! Call for details.
 Leader: Val 265-5945.

Sat Sept 24 Leisure- Moderate

Miles: 5-? Car: 140

Fourth of July Canyon Spectacular Manzano Wilderness Hike

As autumn takes its grip on the maples, oaks, and aspens turning them multiple shades of red and yellow, see for yourself why the canyon was named "Fourth of July"! Plan to drive to the campground and hike to the crest. Meet at the Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro, at 9:00 AM. Bring lunch.
 Leader: Bob Cornish 255-6037

Sat Sept 24

Beginner's Backpacking Training Session

Five instructors will cover food, cooking, tents, sleeping bags, packs, boots, clothing, sanitation, and low impact camping. Meet at REI classroom at 1:00PM. RSVP.
 Craig Dill 224-9795

Sat- Sun Oct 1- 2 Leisure

Miles: 4-6 Car: 160+

Beginner's Backpack Pecos Wilderness

This is the follow up from last weekend's backpacking training session. We will head for someplace scenic, challenging, but easy. Bring a fishing pole or watch the aspens change. Open to all leisure backpackers. Call for details.

Leader: Craig Dill 224-9795

Sat- Sun Oct 1- 2 Moderate

Miles: 4-6 Car: 300

Valle Vidal X/C Trail Scout

Overnight car camp to Valle Vidal near Colorado to scout out potential X/C ski trails. Marvelous mountain scenery. Expect chilly evenings. Contact Stan 839-4301.
 Leader: John Turnbull 466-9329

Sat Oct 1 Leisure

Miles: 4-5 Car: 180

San Pedro Parks Wilderness Hike Resumidero Area

We come in from the north near Coyote, above Cuba. We walk through aspens and firs into an area with wildflower (late) mead-

ows and a fair amount of beaver dams. The aspen leaves should be turning, so bring a camera. Call for meeting details.
 Leader: John Wright 247-4353

Sun Oct 2 Leisure

Miles: 2? Car: 3

Kid's Petroglyph Hike, Petroglyph NM

The kid's section of the Outing's program are once a month trips to museums, zoos, building bird feeders, caves, kite flying, etc.. Emphasis is placed on the single parent situation. This trip will look at the petroglyphs at a slow pace for a short walk. Bring a lunch. Meet at 9:00 AM. This is a repeat of a trip that was rained out last spring. Please RSVP three days prior.
 Leader: Warren Smith 891-4709

Sat- Mon Oct 8-10 Strenuous

Miles: 14? Car: ~600

Mt. UnCompaghre and Mt. Wetterhorn, Colorado 14teeners

Take these 3 days of Columbus Day weekend to do some peak bagging.
 Leader: Stefan Verchinski 888-1370

Sat Oct 8 Moderate- Exploratory Miles: 6+
 Car: 300

Ah-She-Sle-Pah WSA Hike

Everyone who has not heard of Ah-She-Sle-Pah, please sit down, the remaining 5 left standing, let's go hiking! The best hiking is in badlands. The greatest hiking is in badlands that no one knows about. Add the concern of trying to protect this Wilderness Study Area from the coal companies and you have a very busy day. This WSA lies in the Bisti formation and is a stone's throw from Chaco. Expect to leave at an early 6:00AM, and stay late. Bring lunch.
 Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Oct 9 Leisure

Miles: 3 Car: 3

Piedras Marcadas Hike Petroglyph NM

Between 1300 and 1540 AD, more than 40 pueblos were built along the Rio Grande between Bernalillo and Belen. The escarpment's petroglyphs coincide with the construction of these pueblos and a large population increase. Thousands of petroglyphs. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.
 Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sat- Sun Oct 15-16 Moderate

Miles: 20+ Car: 200

ALBUQUERQUE

OUTINGS

Beginners Mountain Bike Ride, Rio Puerco Basin

Drive to Rio Ruerco Region on the North Slope of Mt. Taylor, and head up into the Ignacio Chavez Wilderness area. Car camp Sat night. Helmet mandatory! Call for details.
 Leader: Val 265-5945.

Sat Oct 15 Moderate

Miles: 4- 6 Car: 110

Ojito ACEC Hike

Ojito WSA lies within the confines of the Ojito Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Part of the ACEC that lies outside of the WSA is now being proposed for mining by Centex for use at their plant in Bernalillo. Utility lines have been dug across geothermal formations, and mining claims are common. We will cross the Rio Salado, head to the travertine hot pots, wander up a gypsum narrows and cross over into some travertine narrows and sink holes. Bring lunch.
 Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat Oct 22 Leisure

Miles: 3 Car:2

Boca Negra Canyon Hike Petroglyph NM

There are petroglyphs in this area of the morning star, greek cross, parrots, Masai warrior masks, and horned anthropomorphs. Bring sturdy shoes, binoculars, and camera, RSVP.
 Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sat Oct 22 Moderate

Miles: 4- 5 Car: 40

Agua Sarca Trail Hike, Sandia Wilderness

This trail takes off from Tunnel Springs and goes around the west side to a mine and then continues on up to a spring. We go up over a ridge to intersect the Crest trail and back to Tunnel Spring. If people are anxious, we will take a trip the China Wall. Meet behind Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy at 9:00AM. For information call David 344-8693.
 Leader: Susan Larsen

Sun Oct 23 Moderate- Strenuous

Miles: 5 Car: 100

Los Lunas Badlands

Dana will again take us out to an interesting area west of Los Lunas. We will be looking for palm tree fossils, volcanic bombs, Anasazi ruins. Along the way we will scramble

over some dry waterfalls. Four wheel drive vehicles would be helpful. Bring lunch.
 David Morrison 344-8693

Sat Oct 29 Strenuous

Miles: 6-7 Car: 160

Sierra Ladrones WSA Hike

Scree slopes and thick brush make this a challenging hill climb from upper Chihuahuan desert to the aspens of Thieves Mountain. Views of 360 degree awaits the the successful climber. If lucky we will glimpse the desert bighorn sheep. Bring lunch water, and do not forget your jacket. Meet at 8:00, at Physics and Astronomy parking lot, corner of Yale and Lomas.
 Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Oct 30 Leisure

Miles: 3 Car: 3

Rio Grande Bosque Hike

We will hike to the north of Corrales near the diversion dam. Three miles and three hours. Meet at 9:00 AM at Burrito Co., the corner of Coors and Alameda.
 Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Late Oct, Early Nov
 X/C Ski Swaps

See story on page 23.

Sat Nov 5 Moderate

Miles: 3-4 Car: 160

El Malpais National Monument, Westside Ice Caves Hike

The management plan for the El Malpais was successfully appealed by environmentalists. This appeal will allow reconsideration of the Chain of Craters as Wilderness, bison management, and other factors. We will hike into Braided, Skylight, and Four Windows ice caves. Bring lunch. Call for meeting location and time.
 Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

Thurs- Sun Nov 24- 27

Thanksgiving Downhill Ski

If you are new to the area and/or have no family in town, plan on joining the Sierra Club for a four day Thanksgiving ski weekend. Look for more information in the November Sierran. Contact Stan 839-4301 or Val 265-5945.

the LORAX

AUGUST MEETING

Our August speaker will be Mike Cormier of the El Paso Solar Energy Association. Mike will speak on "Advantages of Living in a Sunny Climate." He'll tell us about passive solar energy. If you schmooze up to Mother Nature, she'll help you heat and cool your home without a big utility bill. Join us for this illuminating presentation.

The program will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wed 31 Aug at St. Paul's Methodist Church. For more information, call Ted Mertig, 852-3011.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our September speaker will be Tim Murphy of the B.L.M. Tim will offer an update on the proposed feldspar mine at Winn Mtn (of the Cornudas Mtns, an area of critical environmental concern because of their many historic petroglyph sites). Join us, please. The program will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wed 28 Sept at St. Paul's Methodist Church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed 31 Aug	Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemere
Wed 7 Sept	I.C.O. mtg 6 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 7 Sept	EXCOM mtg 7 p.m. Env Ctr
Sat 10 Sept	LORAX flier deadline 532-2652
Wed 14 Sept	Conservation Mtg 7 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 28 Sept	Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemere
Wed 5 Oct	I.C.O. mtg 6 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 5 Oct	EXCOM mtg 7 p.m. Env Ctr
Mon 10 Oct	LORAX Sierran deadline 532-2652
Wed 12 Oct	Conservation Mtg 7 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 26 Oct	Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemere

Thanks to Gardenschwartz!

You can now receive the LORAX every month because of the generous sponsorship of Gardenschwartz Sportz. Chris Putman of the westside Gardenschwartz paid for both printing and mailing of last month's LORAX flier. Thank you, Gardenschwartz Sportz!

This means you'll receive the LORAX monthly, but in two different forms. The flier will be a colored single sheet of folded paper, suitable for posting on your refrigerator door. That will come every other month. On the intervening months you'll get the *RIO GRANDE SIERRAN*. The LORAX — as you must know since you're reading this — is buried in the back. Please don't simply pitch the *SIERRAN* unread. We know that recycled newsprint gray's not the sportiest color. But it is informative.

Sproul Thanks Volunteers: The El Paso Environmental Center operates on the strength of a very few, very dedicated volunteers. Thanks are due Erika Episcopo, Jane Fowler, Jo Nagel, Betty Pagel, and Vic Ward for their consistent help, week in and week out. Thanks also to Bowie H.S., the many Habitat for Humanity volunteers, Carol Price's technical writing students at UTEP, and Tom Casey for their work with the Center's recycling program.

Volunteers Are Needed! At the Env Ctr, this goes without saying. But we have to say it anyway because we need you. Please come and

pitch in. Or at least phone in to put your name on a call list. We need you, we need you, we need you.

Franklin Mountains Call for Help: While we're listing sweat-equity needs, let us add this request from Carolina Ramos. She's the superintendent of Franklin Mtns State Park, office 4838 Montana (between Reynolds & Huckleberry). Please call her at 566-6441 to hear of dynamic plans for the park's future. Become a part of it now.

First Aid Training: Eleven Sierrans attended classes for C.P.R. and First Aid on Tue 9 - Thu 11 Aug to earn certification in these valuable skills. Despite fatigue from full workdays, the Sierrans perked up for the four-hour evening sessions. Excellent instruction helped. At the Basic Life Support School 532-0120, Barbara Zuzierla taught us First Aid in two sessions. At the El Paso E.M.S. HQ 545-5285, Eric Holen taught one session of C.P.R.

Laurence Gibson earned certification in C.P.R. Allison Gore and Mary Lou Parker earned certification in First Aid. Earning both certifications were Sierrans Pat Wood, Betty Pagel, Christine Napiewocki, Ian Hanna, Betty Fisbeck, Michael Bromka, and Michelle Burke.

The free C.P.R. classes are offered on one Thursday night per month, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. The next session will be Thu 8 Sept. Phone ahead to reserve yourself a spot. First Aid classes need reserve booking, since they require a minimum of eight students. Phone Barbara to express interest, and she can gather a list to pull together some classes.

One happy result of the classes is our newest outings leader, Patricia Wood. The first Sierra Club outing she'll lead is the Rim Trail Dayhike on Sat 8 Oct.

Did Ya Give 'em the Boot? I.C.O. needs good used hiking boots of various sizes. We don't want those heavy killer clodhoppers of yore which feel like twin cinderblocks. Nor do we need utterly ragged and useless boots, nor boots with an overwhelming aromatic aura fit to repel grizzlies. But if you have used children's, men's, or women's hightop hiking boots which are still in decent usable shape, we'd love to receive your donation. Call the Environmental Center, or Michael Bromka, or bring 'em on by. Give us the boot, please.

Get Those Outta Here! Please take your used magazines somewhere else. The Env Ctr can't turn them around for cash. All we do is search for new homes for them, which wastes valuable volunteer time. It'd be best for you to bring used magazines directly to someone who wants them. On the westside, used magazines are welcomed by The Bookmark 833-2342, run by the Friends of the Westside Library. They're located at 7500 N. Mesa in the Promenade Plaza across from Pep Boys and Walmart, just two doors west of Cici's Pizza. Their hours are Thu & Sat 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Fri 4-8 p.m.

Another quick place to dump used magazines is any local school that agrees to take them. Phone ahead to ask, or breeze on in during business hours. Or ask any teachers you know if they'll tote 'em in for you.

But please do NOT bring used magazines to the Environmental Center. Thanks!

But Bring Us Your Cans, aluminum and "tin," white office paper, computer paper, newspaper, corrugated cardboard, plastic soft-drink bottles, plastic milkjugs, and styrofoam egg cartons & packing noodles. The Center is open Wed-Sat, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

This outing has room for only two or three parent/offspring teams. Other such outings may ensue this autumn.

Fri 23-24 Sept: Dog Canyon Carcamp/Dayhike in Sacramento Mtns, moderately strenuous 10 miles. Carcamp is optional. The hike Sat starts steeply then gentles out. We'll hike to the wooded spring at the head of the Canyon. We will **not** go all the way to the top of the escarpment. Call Betsy Julian 544-5741.

Sat 1-2 Oct: Fall Foliage Backpack in the Guads, strenuous 12 mile 2000 ft gain first day but easy second day, call Michael Bromka 532-2652. We'll shuttle the cars to McKittrick Canyon, then drive back to begin at Pine Springs. We'll hike up Tejas Trail to Pine Top, then across the escarpment to the woodsy McKittrick Ridge camp. Sunday will regale us with leafy color as we descend into lush McKittrick Canyon.

Sat 8 Oct: Rim Trail Dayhike, Cloudcroft, easy 5 miles, call Patricia Wood 542-0553. Join us for the quick two-hour drive to our trailhead near Cloudcroft Center. From a ridge trail high above the basin, we'll view the Tularosa valley, White Sands, and Sierra Blanca to the north. We'll continue down the trail to a lush stand of big tooth maples blazing in red and gold. In this brilliant glade we'll relax and eat lunch. Returning by the same trail, we may opt to stop for ice cream or a snack in one of Cloudcroft's trendy new shops.

Sat 8-9 Oct: San Mateo Peak Backpack, Apache Kid Wilderness, moderate plus, limit 8, call Kathy Sunday: hm 584-9301, wk 778-8030. Eight miles round trip with 2800 ft. gain. We may need to carry water. Possible view of the area burned by the Coffee Pot Fire.

Fri 21-23 Oct: Nabours Mtn Backpack, Gila, strenuous, call Joe Rodriguez 833-9655. We'll carcamp on Fri night, then set out Sat for a hearty weekend of backpacking. Mileage and further details t.b.a.

Sat 5-6 Nov: Beginners' Backpack, Gila or Cloudcroft, easy, call Debbie Tomacelli 584-3929. Pre-Trip Planning Meeting required. Check next LORAX for details.

OUTINGS REPORTS

Trans-Gila Backpack, 18-26 June: We began on a classic route from Sandy Point to Hummingbird Saddle to Snow Park to White Creek Flat to Lilley Park. While El Paso baked in record-setting heat, our weather ranged from hailstorms to unheard-of nineties. We had the trails pretty much to ourselves. We visited with Giacomo and his trail crew at Hummingbird, and learned the ways of the spotted owl from a survey crew at the Flats. We swam in sparkling pools, and sighted many elk, some grouse, one bear, and no snakes. Down the Middle Fork, a rare treat was exploring the wild and isolated trail to the Canyon Creek Ranch of Quentin Hulse, Gila pioneer and namesake of Quentin Springs. There, he treated us to ice-water and regaled us with tales of the Gila's past. The trip ended as it began with a Willow Creek carcamp featuring fresh trout and frosty temps. Our group comprised Dale Harris, Rafaela Schuller, Carol Morrison, Chris Gibson, with guest John Wright, and leader Laurence Gibson.

GROUP DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman/ Public Lands	Ted Mertig	852-3011
Vice Chair	Mike Episcopo	833-3770
Secretary	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
Treasurer	Kathy Sunday	584-9301
Outings	Debbie Tomacelli	584-3929
Inner City Outings	Richard Rheder	544-5659
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CONSERVATION		
Env. Quality	Tom Brasfield	584-8739
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Population	OPEN	
ADMINISTRATION		
Env Center	OPEN	
LORAX Mail	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Hospitality	Barbara Mertig	852-3011
Membership	OPEN	
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Publicity	OPEN	
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300 W. Schuster #5
El Paso, TX 79902

UPCOMING OUTINGS

Sat 3-5 Sept: Labor Day Loop Backpack, Gila Wilderness, strenuous, limit 12, call Laurence Gibson 594-7342. We'll do a 22 mile loop in three days from Little Dry Creek trailhead to Apache Cabin, down the Golden Link Trail to Spruce Creek and out via old Trail 220. Old mines and a new fire this June will add interest.

Sat 17 Sept: Baylor Pass Traverse Dayhike, Organ Mtns, strenuous, limit 12, call Alice Anderson 505-523-5179. From St. Augustine Pass, we'll follow the north ridge of Baylor Peak thence to Baylor Canyon Trail. Expect loose rock, some exposure, thorns, rattlesnakes, and spectacular views along this rare outing.

Sun 18 Sept: Bear-Tejas Loop Dayhike, Guadalupe Mtns, strenuous 2000 ft gain, limit 20, call Michael Bromka 532-2652. From Pine Springs, start gently along Frijole Trail before climbing that Bear of a Canyon, steeply switchbacking to Pine Top. Hunter Peak offers one of the great Texan views. Tejas trail wanders back down to finish this ten-mile classic.

Fri 23-25 Sept: Parent/Offspring Service Backpack in the Guads, moderately strenuous, minimum 10 miles over two days 2000 ft gain, call Michael Bromka 532-2652. Fri evening we'll drive to Pine Springs, and camp free at a group site. Saturday rising early, we'll eat a quick breakfast, and then strap on our backpacks for a cool morning ascent to the escarpment. We won't have to carry water except for the hike. Reaching the worksite, we'll use tools and timbers provided by the Park Service to build permanent tentsites. A halfday of work Sunday should complete the project. We'll hike out and drive home.

Weminuche Backpack, 6-13 July: The Continental Divide Trail stretches eighty miles through Colorado's Weminuche Wilderness. Our goal was to backpack the eastern-most forty miles from Wolf Creek Pass to Squaw Pass. Could we make it in six days? Would we find water and "primo" tent sites at day's end? Above the timberline could we avoid lightning? These questions nagged Bill & Shirley Phillips, Betty Fisbeck, Susan Pratt, Carol Morrison, Rafaela Schuller, Carolina Greenfield, and leader Laurence Gibson as we shouldered packs at Lobo Overlook.

For the first three days we took it easy, adjusting to the average altitude of 11,500 ft. We gamely pushed ahead through two very strenuous days, ten miles over ten hours each day. These were an endurance "gut-check" for us, but offered rewards. We relished real bluebirds, gorgeous wildflowers, a grassy tent site beside a rushing spring (no pumping!), and on-top-of-the-world views.

One day at dusk by "Desperado Saddle," we met five lost horsemen on thirsty and bleeding mounts. They asked directions but refused a map: "Wouldn't know how to read it." We pressed on to the gem-like Cherokee Lake. There, we shared our camp with an atavistic crew of five buckskinners, decked out for trekking with pre-1840s-style gear: flint & steel, canvas & leather, muskets & mocassins, 100+ lb. packs. Called themselves "Les Miserables," no need to ask why.

Our last two eight-mile days down to Squaw Pass, then to the trailhead felt relatively easy. On our home stretch, clouds rolled in to pelt us with what looked like cottage cheese, then drizzle. Happy campers, we reached our vehicles safely: stronger, lighter, and wiser now, having learned answers to questions which no longer nagged.

Tour de La Luz Bike Ride, Sat 9 July: The Sierra and El Paso Bicycle Clubs teamed up for 22 miles of fast downhill mountain biking from Cloudcroft to La Luz, NM. The first 3.5 miles offered a steep paved climb to Silver, Saddle, & Apache campgrounds, then a sharp descent to Forest Rd 162. From there we zipped downhill on dirt through scenery evolving from alpine forest to arid desert.

Over the paved portion of the ride we were accompanied by Carlos Heredia & family. Crossing a cattleguard just before the Wofford turnout, young Carlos Jr offered an omen by taking a spill from his 5-speed. He was in luck: driving the SAG wagon (service and gear), Mary Lou Parker pulled over to render aid. Outing leader Richard Rheder used the Sierra Club first-aid kit to treat a minor road rash on Carlos Jr's shoulder. Carlito's doctor/daddy soon cycled up to treat his son's damaged dignity.

Guests from the Juarez mountain bike racing scene, Louie Gomez and Al Veliz delighted in the speedy descent: "really gets your adrenaline pumping." We might re-dub Veliz as *Veloz* (Spanish for "fast"). Despite a gaping blowout, a major road rash, and loss of a big toenail (ouch!), Al is ready for the next ride.

The day's goriest glory goes to 14-yr-old Ian Hanna Jr, who suffered nasty-looking puncture wounds to the forehead & chin plus knee & forearm abrasions after bashing his front wheel on a rock. Richard, Michael Bromka, and others rendered first aid until the SAG wagon arrived. Richard drove Ian to get stitched up in Alamogordo, picking up his father along the way. Ian Jr is now pleased to have a tale rivaling his father's recent warwounds at the tentacles of a jellyfish while snorkeling in the Sea of Cortez.

Other riders arrived happy without a scratch. John Walton claimed he hardly got a workout, and his children Rory (8) and

Arthur (10) suffered only hand blisters from frequent braking. Other cyclists were Roy McCloud, Al Trabulsi, Robert Bell, Tony Balmaceda, Rafael Soza, and Burt Cherko. Riding shotgun in the SAG wagon was Mary Lou's nephew, Jimmy Parker (8). For news of future joint Sierra & El Paso Bicycle Club outings, call 584-4455.

Rabb Park Dayhike, Sat 16 July: Our small but enthusiastic group hit the trail late for a fun and vigorous hike in the Gila. The trail was bone dry. Temperature was comfortable, thanks to an incipient thunderhead hovering off to the north. We hiked briskly to the corral at Rabb Park, leaving plenty of time for lunch and local exploration. On the return leg, rain threatened but held off. Hikers were Chris & Felipe Villanueva, Jason & Lorraine Perez, Gustavo Pina, Roy McCloud, Jim Montes, and leader Carl G. Horkowitz.

EARTH LETTER

You can make a difference now: write a letter, save the earth.

An Endangered Act: Good news: the bald eagle population has resurged to be reclassified from endangered to "threatened." Bad news: the act which nurtured the eagle is itself endangered. Opponents of the Endangered Species Act are trying to relax the E.S.A. and encourage development, eagles be damned.

Treehuggers to the Rescue: Meanwhile, environmentalists in Congress are trying to shore up the E.S.A. as it approaches reauthorization. Seeking to give the E.S.A. teeth, these lawmakers propose a deadline schedule by which critical habitats can be designated and preserved. **Take a Stand:** Sierra Club supports the pro-environmental H.R. 2043 of Reps Studds and Dingell; and also the S.921 of Sens Baucus and Chafee.

Here's Why: These bills are good because they:

1. focus on whole ecosystems
2. speed up recovery of endangered species
3. offer financial incentives for private landowners to cooperate
4. encourage the public to participate in recovery of endangered species.

Sierra Club also endorses the Clinton admin's efforts to focus on whole ecosystems (which often include a number of threatened species).

Boo! Hiss! Sierra Club opposes the measures of Reps Tauzin & Fields and Sens Shelby & Gorton. They want to relax limits on development. Here is a glaring loophole they would allow:

No Potty Breaks: Say an eagle nests in a tree. Currently, that tree and its neighboring trees are protected. Opponents of the E.S.A. want to allow cutting down the neighboring trees. Then if the eagle leaves its nest temporarily, they say cut down that tree as well.

We must protect rare habitats and species before they dwindle to extinction.

Write a Letter, Save the Earth: Re-read this discussion. In your own words, handwrite its essence. Be brief, lucid, and passionate. Send your letters to one or more Congresspersons:

Senator Phil Gramm
 Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
 *Senator Jeff Bingaman
 Senator Pete Domenici
 *Representative Ron Coleman
 Representative Joe Skeen
 Washington, D.C. 20510 (senate) 20515 (house)
 (*These are more likely to heed your message.)

Glow With Pride: You've done your part!

SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1994

PROTECTION OF SOUTHWEST FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

The Forest Conservation Council will present a slide show and discussion of southwest forest issues at the September General Meeting. The Forest Conservation Council has based its southwest regional office in Santa Fe and has been working to protect the fragile ecosystems of New Mexico, Arizona and southern Colorado forest lands since 1992. The slide show will document destructive forest practices, at risk forest ecosystems and wildlife, as well as describe and highlight the Council's proactive ecosystem reserve mapping project, which is nearing completion on the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests. For more information, contact Sue McIntosh or John Talberth at 986-8435. Or, just show up and be entertained!

The September meeting is free to all and will be held at the Unitarian Church (on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo) Tuesday, September 20, 1994, at 7:30 PM.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1994

MEET THE CANDIDATES

An important exercise to keep our state healthy is for voters to get to know the people who are running for public office. That opportunity will present itself at our October General Meeting to which we have invited the candidates for statewide office that have been endorsed by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club: incumbent Governor Bruce King, candidate for Lieutenant Governor Patricia Madrid; incumbent Attorney General Tom Udall, and incumbent State Land Commissioner Ray Powell Jr. So that you can be an informed voter, come and meet these candidates and ask them your burning questions.

The meeting is free to all and will be held at the Unitarian Church (on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo) Tuesday, October 18, 1994, at 7:30 PM.

Meetings at the Sierra Club Office, 440 Cerrillos:

Executive Committee:

October 4, November 1 at 7 PM

Conservation Committee:

September 20, October 25 at 7 PM

REGISTER TO VOTE — NOW !!

VOTE NOVEMBER 1

VOTE OFTEN !!

>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

Co-Chairs — Mark Mortier*	983-5870	Political Committee — Ken Hughes*	474-0550
— Norma McCallan*	471-0005	Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-3926
Secretary/Treasurer — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Phone Tree — Martha Anne Freeman*	438-0697
Conservation — Van Perkins*	983-8801	Kids' Sierra Club — Justine Freeman	988-9126
— George Grossman*	982-1024	Recycling/Office — Carolyn Keskulla	982-9570
Chapter Representatives - Sue McIntosh*	466-4144	Outings — Norbert Sperlich	983-1962
— Norma McCallan*	471-0005	— Norma McCallan*	471-0005
Publicity — Cass Evans 474-0406/hm - 982-6250/wk		Social/Membership— Fundraising— Education—	
* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee			

Terms expire 12/94: Hughes/McIntosh/Freeman/Perkins

12/95: McCallan/Mortier/Soracco/Goldman/Grossman



>>>>>>>>> SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS <<<<<<<<<<<

Sat Sun September

- 3 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Hike to Pederal Peak (one steep scramble at end), followed by a swim at Abiquiu Lake on trip home. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 4 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate Hike in the Jemez. Leave 8 AM.
- 10 Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike in the Tesuque Basin (accessed from Aspen Vista Road) Leave 8:30 AM.
- 11 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Strenuous Hike to Spirit Lake and Lake Katherine. Leave 7:30 AM.

★ PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN THIS HIKE FROM LAST NEWSLETTER ★

Saturday-Sunday, September 10-11

- 11 John Turnbull (466-9329) Overnight Car Camp to Bisti area to explore the geology of the San Juan Basin and look for fossils and dinosaur bones in the De-Na-Zin Wilderness area. Small pick or hammer useful. Easy to Moderate Hiking Leave 8:30 AM Sat morning from Wilderness Exchange on Cordova Road. Albuquerque folks can meet group at San Ysidro. No water available in Bisti area — bring sufficient. Call leader for details.
- 17 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Easy Hike on Aspen Vista Road. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 17 Steven Merdler (988-4137) Strenuous Hike to Santa Fe Baldy, then traverse to Redondo Peak (Capulin). Considerable elevation gain. Leave 8 AM.
- 18 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Hike to Nambe Lake. Leave 8 AM.
- 24 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike in Pecos Wilderness. Call leader for reservations & info.
- 25 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate Hike to Cerro Pelada via Randall Davey Center. Off trail, up and down ridges. Leave from PERA at 8 AM.

Friday-Saturday-Sunday, September 23-24-25

Norma McCallan (471-0005) 3-day Backpack Manzano Mtns. Lve after work Thurs. Base camp on crest and Saturday day hike further along the Crest Trail. Leave after work on Thurs. Call for details.

SANTA FE GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

NEW XCOM MEMBER

Don Goldman has been selected to fill the unexpired term of Vicki Gabin on the Santa Fe Group Excom. Don is a long-time activist here in Santa Fe, and we feel proud that he has consented to join our Group Excom. Welcome, Don.



Outings Notes — Unless otherwise noted, all outings leave from the PERA parking lot at the corner of Paseo de Peralta and Old Santa Fe Trail (across the street from the State Capitol and Corbae). Carpooling will be arranged at the parking lot, and each hiker should come prepared to pay 5¢ a mile to the driver of the car in which hiker rides. Hikers should bring a lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather — leader reserves the right to turn away anyone whose equipment or experience appears unsuitable. Leader has right to alter destination of hike or cancel the trip due to weather, unfavorable conditions, or insufficient numbers of participants. Unaccompanied minors must have written permission from parents or guardians to participate; permission forms are available at the Sierra Club office. Dogs not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike.

ELECTION TIME AGAIN

The November-December issue of the newsletter will carry bios and ballots for election of four new members of the Santa Fe Group Executive Committee. The nominating committee consists of Ken Hughes (474-0550), Sue McIntosh (466-4144) and Kay Carlson (982-3926).

If you are interested in serving on the Excom, know anyone else who would be interested, or would just like more information, please call Ken Hughes before September 30.

>>>>>>>>> SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS <<<<<<<<<<<

Sat Sun October

- 1 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike up Aspen Vista. Leave 8 AM.
- 1 Steven Janus (988-4137) Car Camp/Strenuous Hike on Williams Lake, Lake Fork Peak, Wheeler Peak loop. 8½ miles RT, 4800' total climb. Leave Friday after work. Call leader for information.
- 2 Moderate/Strenuous Hike to overlook near La Vega. About 8½ miles RT, 1800' elevation gain. Leave 9 AM. Leader can be reached at 471-7575.

Saturday and Sunday, October 1 and 2

John Turnbull (466-9329) Overnite Car Camp & Moderate Dayhiking to scout out cross-country ski trails in the Valle Vidal. Marvelous mountain scenery. Expect chilly evenings. Meet at Wilderness Exchange on Cordova Road at 8:45 AM on Saturday.

Thursday to Monday, October 6 to 10

- Norma McCallan (471-0005) 5-day backpack in SE Utah on Wooden Shoe — Dark Canyon — Peavine Loop, approximately 36 miles. One day layover to explore side canyons. If access road to trailhead impassable, will do Fish & Owl Canyons. Call for reservations/details. Leave 1 PM, Wednesday, 10-5.
- 8 Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy/Moderate Hike from Otowi Bridge along Rio Grande. Leave 9 AM.
- 8 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate/Strenuous Hike from Holy Ghost Campground to Stewart Lake. About 10 miles RT, 2150' climb. Call leader for information.
- 9 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Strenuous Hike to Santa Fe Baldy. 14 miles RT, 2780' elevation gain. Leave at 8 AM.
- 15 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Moderate Hike on Dockwiller Trail. 8 miles RT, 1700' elevation gain. Call leader for information.
- 16 Art Judd (982-3212) Moderate Hike to the high country. Leave 8 AM.
- 22 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to source of Little Tesuque Creek. About 6 miles RT, 2000' elevation gain. Leave 8 AM.
- 23 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Hike on Red Dot Trail into White Rock Canyon and off-trail up Water Canyon. 8 miles RT. Meet at Smith Supermarket in White Rock at 9 AM, or call leader for carpooling.
- 29 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Strenuous Hike on Bandelier Visitor Center — Upper Crossing Loop. 13 miles RT, 1600' total climb. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 30 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Moderate Hike from Ski Basin to La Vega. 7 miles RT, 1500' elevation gain. Leave 9 AM.

NOTES FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

WANTED: Volunteers for the following tasks:

- Tea & Coffee person** to set up and be at the refreshment table at each general meeting
- Welcomer** to be at the table with brochures/hiking books/T-shirts/bulletins at each general meeting and to welcome members/guests as they arrive
- Membership Chair** to be responsible for planning activities to recruit/retain new members
- Social Chair** to plan and oversee social events for our membership
- Education Chair** to plan and oversee environmental education activities in our community & schools

We have an impressive number of members, but a discouragingly small number of activists and volunteers. All of these positions are vacant at this time. Each can be as narrowly or broadly interpreted as your time and energies allow. All provide wonderful opportunities for interaction with your fellow Sierrans and for doing your part for the environment.

If you are interested in finding out more about these openings or want to sign up, please call Co-chairs Norma McCallan (471-0005) or Mark Mortier (983-5870).

SIERRA CLUB -- Santa Fe Group · 440 Cerrillos Road · Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 · 505/983-2703

>>>>>>>>> SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS <<<<<<<<<<

Sat Sun November

- 5 Arnold and Carolyn Keskulla (982-9570) Easy/Moderate Hike in the Tesuque Hills. Leave 9 AM.
- 5 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike somewhere in Bandelier. Call for reservations and details.
- 6 John Jasper (466-8572) Easy/Moderate Loop Hike (with car shuttle) Aspen Vista — Tesuque — Ski Basin. Slow Pace. Leave 8 AM.
- Friday-Saturday-Sun, November 4-5-6
- Norma McCallan (471-0005) Exploratory Backpack along the slickrock hogback of Comb Ridge, between Highway 95 and Highway 163 in SE Utah. 20 plus miles. Great panoramas and eroded sandstone the whole way. If weather bad, we will camp and do moderate day hikes in the area. Leave early Thursday afternoon, 11-3. Call for details. Dogs allowed, only if camping.
- 12 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike in Ojo Caliente area. Leave 8 AM.
- 13 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Lake Peak via Winsor Trail, weather permitting. Otherwise, moderate hike at a lower elevation. Call for reservations.
- 19 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Loop Hike to Ancho Rapids via Ancho Canyon. Approximately 7 miles RT, some off-trail and bushwhacking. Call for time and meeting place.
- 20 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate Cross-Country Ski Tour (snow conditions permitting). If no snow, Moderate Hike to Shaggy Peak (considerable off-trail walking). Leave 8 AM. Call to find out which option.
- 26 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Hike Red Dot/Blue Dot Trail near White Rock. Leave 8 AM.
- 27 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Strenuous Hike to San Miguel Ruins in Bandelier National Monument. Call for reservations.
- 27 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike in Cañada de Los Alamos. Leave 9 AM.

**TRACKING FOR WOMEN**

... a weekend workshop, September 9 to 11, 1994, in Santa Fe. Explore the skills of tracking. Learn how to read nature's clues, sharpen powers of observation, and re-connect to instinctual awareness. In this state of heightened awareness, we can know from moment to moment what others are going to do. This is not a self-defense course or "impact training" . . . It is a new exploratory awareness training for women. We learn to read people's energy, maintain an instinctual awareness, and move through our everyday lives with more confidence.

This workshop is led by John Stokes, founder and director of *The Tracking Project*. John has worked with tribal, rural, and urban indigenous people globally, including Aborigines and Native Americans, to preserve the knowledge of traditional tracking and survival skills. He has taught at Tom Brown's Tracking/Wilderness Survival School, is the co-founder of the Santa Fe Council for Environmental Excellence, and has teamed with Robert Bly and James Hillman to apply the skills of tracking to the inner work of men.

Tracking for Women is being offered in Santa Fe for the first time this fall. John will be joined by several skilled facilitators, including Nancy Latuja from the Philippines, Vickie Downey from the Tesuque Pueblo, Louie Blue Cloud Greensfelder from the Mohawk Nation, and special guest teacher from Santa Fe, Zuleika.

Cost of the workshop is \$245. Overnight accommodations not included. No previous training is necessary. The workshop is limited to 40 women — so register today!

For more information, call Nancy London in Santa Fe at 471-0399.

THE LOGOutings

Saturday, September 17: Jim Basler will lead a day hike to Achenbach Canyon in the Organ Mountains. This will be a moderate hike with an uphill grade. We leave the north parking lot of Pan Am at 8:30 am. For more information call Marianne at 522-3421.

Saturday, October 1: Come on a weekend backpack trip to Little Bear Canyon in the Gila National Forest. Call Melba Skinner at 382-5293 (evenings) for more details. **BEGINNERS WELCOME!!**

Saturday, October 15: Join us for another backpack excursion to the Cat Walk in the Gila National Forest. We will leave Saturday morning at 8:30. Call Subhakar Banerjee for more information at 521-7025.

Saturday, October 29: This day hike to the Oliver Lee State Park, Dog Canyon will be moderate to difficult but highly enjoyable. Hikers should bring a lunch on this one. We will leave from the north parking lot of Pan Am at 8:30 am. Call Andrew Hands for more information at 523-9059.

Saturday, November 5: Join this day hike to the Lake Valley Mining Area on BLM and Gila NF areas. Call Melba Skinner at 382-5293 (evenings) for more information.

Saturday, November 19: This very easyhike will lead you to the petroglyphs in Lucero Canyon. We'll leave the north Pan-Am parking lot at 9:00 am. Call Jack Smith at 525-8326 for details.

Meetings

Thursday, September 15: There will be an Executive Committee Meeting. We will meet at the Southwest Environmental Center at 7:00pm. Call Marianne for details.

Thursday, September 22: Come join us at 7:30 pm for a general Sierra Club meeting at Science Hall room 107 on the NMSU campus. Watch the newspaper for information on the program that will be given tonight.

Thursday, October 20: The Executive Committee will meet at 7:00 pm at the S.E.C. on South Solano. All Sierra Club members are invited. (This is a tentative meeting schedule. Stay tuned for any changes.)

Thursday, October 27: We will have a general Sierra Club meeting at Science Hall room 107 on the NMSU campus. Join us at 7:30 for a program (speaker not yet determined).

Executive Committee Nominations

This year the Ex-Com changed the bylaws so that there will be only nine members with others on standby. It is an even year so only four people can renew their places on the Ex-Com. Members up for renewal include: Tony Chiaviello, Andrew Hands, Elizabeth Hernandez, Marianne Thaeler, Ben Zerbey, Kris Paulsen and Jim Winder. We need to form a Nominating Committee with two non-Ex-Com. members and one Ex-Com. member. Please contact Marianne Thaeler if you are interested or willing to help.

The LOG needs more articles!

The Southern New Mexico Log is calling on you! We need people to write small articles on topics of interest such as local environmental problems, events, issues and general fact finding information. If you would like to submit an article, please mail it to Kris Paulsen at P.O. Box 4278, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003. All entries should be received by the 11th of each month in order to meet *Sierran* deadlines.

Organ Mountain Alert

by Marianne Thaeler

Soledad Canyon behind Dripping Springs in the Organ Mountains was and is contaminated with World War II unexploded ordnance (UXO). Soledad Canyon, which cuts through the mountains, was used for artillery practice and still has unexploded artillery shells. The area is managed by Fort Bliss, Texas/New Mexico. Although there are some postings in the mountains within Fort Bliss boundaries, there are no military fences marking the boundaries. All hikers who use Achenbach Canyon Trail should be aware that the trail leads toward Soledad Canyon and should avoid the Canyon. On the east end of Soledad Canyon, Fort Bliss has four water wells that serve White Sands Missile Range Headquarters. A few years ago, the water wells began bringing up brackish water, thus new wells were drilled on the east end of Soledad Canyon.

Join those who care for the Organ Mountains. Write a letter to our Congressional delegation asking that the Organ Mountains be cleaned up and returned to BLM as Wilderness Area (roadless area undisturbed for the enjoyment of all).

Entry Passes for Federal Fee Areas

Entry passes are sold to individuals to gain access to Federal Fee areas. They are good for the individual and family (a car load), but not buses or tours. Several different passes are available. See the descriptions below and take advantage of these opportunities.

Golden Eagle Pass - allows entry to all National Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites and Wildlife Refuges. The cost is \$25. and it lasts one year. There are no requirements and it is available to all people. You can purchase this pass at National Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites and Refuges.

Golden Age Passport - allows entry to all federal fee sites including BLM, Forest Service, National Parks, Monuments and Historic Sites. The use of services; campsites, picnic tables is 1/2 price with this pass. The cost is a one time fee of \$10. and it is good for life. You must be 62 years of age or older and it can be purchased through any fee sites or agencies listed earlier.

Organ Mountain Pass - allows entry to Dripping Springs and Aguirre Springs and use of their facilities. It costs \$15. for one year and has no requirements.

Handicapped Pass - allows entry to all federal fee sites and is available at the sites or local BLM offices. The cost is free and it is good for a lifetime, however you must be handicapped to get this pass.

Group Directory

Marianne Thaeler, Chair	522-3421
Myra Price, Vice-chair	524-0261
David Pengelley, Faculty Advisor	525-8286
Kris Paulsen, Newsletter	523-9059
Cheryl Blevins, Publicity	524-4861
Ben Zerbey, Treasurer	526-6207
Jim Basler, Outings	
Melba Skinner, Outings	382-5293
Andrew Hands, Education	523-9059
Jim Winder, Education	267-4227
Erika Kocsis, Solid Waste	527-0523
Tony Chiaviello, Ex-Com	525-1802
Marian Nygard, Ex-Com	522-4689

Student Directory

* Election of officers at the beginning of the semester will cause this to change

Lori Schmierer, President	526-2282
Erin Oliver, Student involvement	526-3001
David Pengelley, Student Advisor	525-8286

Questions to HR Candidates

The following issues and questions were sent to the New Mexico Candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, District 2, running in the general election 1994. None of the candidates were approved or disapproved for endorsement by the Southern New Mexico Group. Rex Johnson, Green Party Candidate, and Ben Chavez, Democratic Party Candidate responded. Republican incumbent Joe Skeen's office declined the opportunity.

1) Fifteen years ago BLM was mandated to survey the public lands under its management for areas that met the definition of Wilderness as set forth in the Wilderness Act. At the time strong objections were made to the Wilderness Study Areas recognized by BLM, because the survey was not made in good faith. The New Mexico Coalition was formed, a group of individuals from all walks of life and organizations dedicated to hiking, exploring, discovering, verifying, and mapping those BLM public lands that meet the requirements for wilderness designation. The result is a proposal called the NM BLM Wilderness Coalition Proposal. BLM offices in all parts of New Mexico have worked with the Coalition Proposal to iron out any difficulties that were found, except the offices in the 2nd Congressional District. One reason is that some individuals on hearing of proposed designation run vehicles into or through the roadless areas making them unqualified for designation.

Question: If elected would you support and introduce a BLM Wilderness Bill for New Mexico based on the work done by the New Mexico BLM Wilderness Coalition?

Answers:

Johnson: "Yes. I promise both a slight enlargement of the BLM

Wilderness Coalition's proposal and an omnibus Forest Service Wilderness Bill (800,000+ acres) in the 2nd District (Lincoln, Gila & Cibola NFs). I will propose combining Guadalupe and Carlsbad National Parks with contiguous Lincoln NF lands with wilderness designation."

Chavez: "I would support the protection of existing Wilderness Areas, relaxation of the definition of designable areas to allow inclusion of other areas. Creation of new areas could be based upon work done by the coalition and by input by other interested parties. I support the concept of Wilderness areas to preserve a legacy of pristine territory for our descendants."

2) One of the areas, Recognized by the BLM as a Wilderness Study Area, is the Organ Mountains. The New Mexico BLM Wilderness Coalition Proposal proposes an Organ Mountain Wilderness Area to include lands presently managed by the U.S. Army, Ft. Bliss

TXNM. (It is here that the recent Organ Mtn. fires started.) One portion of the canyon is known as Soledad Canyon. Soledad Canyon was used during WW II as an artillery gunnery range and is in need of clean up.

Question: If elected, will you recognize the Organ Mountains as worthy of designation as BLM Wilderness? And, will you submit legislation and request the necessary funds for the clean up of Soledad Canyon and the return of Soledad Canyon and lands west of the Organ Mountain crest to BLM for Wilderness designation?

Answers:

Johnson: "Yes."

Chavez: "Some portion of the Organ Mountains should be designated as a Wilderness Area. Whether lands presently managed by Fort Bliss should be included will depend upon balancing military necessity against appropriateness for Wilderness designation. If lands appropriate for wilderness designation were degraded by past military use I would support funding to restore them to their natural condition."

3) "Takings" has been characterized as an issue to protect private property rights. "Takings" bills and amendments have been introduced in two forms:

A) "Takings assessment" provisions which would subject virtually all governmental actions as costly, unnecessary reviews of their "takings implications" at great expense to the taxpayers.

B) "Takings Compensation" provisions, which would require payment when government actions may restrict landholders' future development of their property - no matter how reasonable the restriction. Under most of these measures, all of the following would make taxpayers liable, in real dollars, for theoretical losses to private property owners: zoning laws, worker health and safety laws, civil rights laws, and environmental protection laws. Recently raised is the proposed right of property owners to develop or plan to develop lands during negotiation processes and then claim a "takings compensation" for these plans and developments. The Sierra Club supports private property rights!

Question: What is your position on "Takings" Legislation? Should the issue be left to the courts? other?

Answers:

Johnson: "It is my understanding that virtually all of the 'takings' arguments have no basis in statute or case law. I am not in favor of 'private' legislation--takings or otherwise--seeking to prevent enforcement of federal environmental laws."

Chavez: "The traditional protection afforded property owners by the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution has provided a balance between individual rights and compelling public necessity. Fair market value for expropriated lands should be based upon actual use (as it has traditionally been) and not on speculative potential uses."

4) A large percentage of the lands in the 2nd Congressional District of New Mexico are presently managed by the military and are off-limits to the public, including Fort Bliss TXNM and White Sands Missile Range. To date the public has become aware of some proposed programs that would expand the geographic boundaries of these installations. These expansion areas are presently jointly managed by Dept. of Interior (BLM) and the Dept. of Agriculture (Jornada Experimental Range), and some is presently managed through agreement with private property owners who receive compensation for temporary evacuation. At risk are over 1 million acres of land. Some of the known programs involved in the expansion are: Theater Missile Defense Extended Range; Theater High Altitude Area Defense; Roving Sands as newly configured; Joint Training Exercise 6 - joint military gunnery and helicopter training for control of the US-Mexico Border. Both White Sands Missile Range and Ft. Bliss TXNM solicit business, both foreign and domestic, for their facilities.

Question: Do you support geographic expansion of these existing military installations in the 2nd Congressional District of New Mexico?

Answers:

Johnson: "No."

Chavez: "Any proposal to expand these already large facilities must be carefully scrutinized and justified only by the most compelling national security needs. If anything, the present size of these facilities needs to be carefully examined to see if some of this land could not be restored to BLM stewardship thus opening it to multiple public uses."

5) **Question:** If the State of New Mexico requests financial assistance from the U.S. Government for construction and personnel for a New Mexico Environmental Department Building in Dona Ana County to make inspectors readily available in this fast growing area of New Mexico, would you, if elected, assist the State in its efforts whenever and however possible?

Answers:

Johnson: "Can't answer at this time. We don't lack for buildings in this country."

Chavez: "I would consider it high priority to assist the State to fulfill its environmental protection mission. This is one area in which only federal and state coordination can begin to produce results."

6) The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is due for reauthorization by Congress. Enacted in 1973 at the request of President Nixon, the Act provides a flexible framework for resolving conflicts between development proposals and the survival of species. Between the Act's enactment and 1990 fewer than 2% of projects scrutinized have been blocked. Sensational cases grab headlines. Endangered species are the canaries-in-the-mines, the indicators of a problem. Loss of species also means a loss of knowledge, and potential food and medicine for the future. The ESA has been used to protect ecosystems on public lands to insure sustainable development of natural resources for the future. The Sierra Club supports private property rights and the ESA. Recently the ESA has come under attack by some private property rights activists.

Question: If elected to Congress will you support the abolition of the ESA? Why? Would you support the reauthorization of the ESA? Why? would you attempt to modify the existing ESA? If so, how would you wish to modify it?

Answers:

Johnson: "Yes. Yes. Wildlife and wildlife habitats protection needs the force of law, and it is clear to me that the State of New Mexico is not up to doing the job. What we have here is a basic value judgment: Are species worth protecting? I believe they are. Opponents of the law do not."

Chavez: "The Endangered Species Act serves a purpose and must be carefully balanced against other community interests. The polarization of certain segments of our community on these issues must be assuaged by a congressman who will devote the necessary time and energy to bring people together on their particular concerns. People feel disconnected, helpless, and victimized by a government that either moves against them to their detriment or does not act on their behalf for their better interest. If elected I will first act with the knowledge of this reality and work constantly to ameliorate and find solutions that are representative of the differing constituencies."

Open Letter to Environmental Organizations ref: Protection of Birds and Bats in Oil and Gas Country

Dear Friends:

We at the New Mexico State Land Office have recently made significant progress in our efforts to prevent the deaths of migratory birds and bats by toxic emissions from oil well processing equipment, so-called heat treaters.

I know this issue has been high on most conservation groups' agendas in recent years and I feel obligated to report on recent developments.

When I took office last year, I pledged to hold regular consultations with all of the constituencies of the State Land Office. I have met several times with representatives of the oil and gas industry to discuss areas of common concern.

During the past year, we have urged the industry to voluntarily install protective devices to prevent birds and bats from perching or nesting on oil field equipment. We also became aware that some companies were voluntarily installing the relatively inexpensive conical devices.

Internally, I took two (2) initiatives:

1. I directed my staff to update our own research and other agencies' data and orders on bird and bat mortality; and
2. I ordered a field review of oil and gas facilities on state trust land to determine the extent of voluntary industry compliance.

We were gratified to learn that, in the San Juan Basin, 95 percent of the stacks we checked had been covered. However, we learned that only 3 percent of the stacks in the Permian Basin had protective devices installed.

At our most recent consultation with the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association and the New Mexico Independent Petroleum Association on August 2, 1994, we revisited the issue. We discussed the evidence of bird and bat mortality, federal agency directives and industry responses.

At the meeting, leaders of the industry groups gave us their verbal commitment that they would work to see that their members installed protective devices on their oil field equipment. There were no objections to the commitment.

We were gratified by the response, and I sincerely appreciate the willingness of the oil and gas industry to take this step without the need for a formal, adversarial rule-making process. Through open, non-confrontational communication, scientific research and the

strong support of many in the environmental community, we were able to achieve this breakthrough agreement.

It is in everyone's best interest to acknowledge the problem and do the right thing. However, there will undoubtedly be those in the oil and gas industry who will resist the recommendations of the State Land Office and their own industry associations.

So I pledge that, having obtained the industry's commitment, we will now monitor the voluntary compliance. If we find that the

industry is not taking steps to prevent bird and bat mortality, we will elevate our efforts in a more formal way.

I appreciate the support I have received from the environmental community in this and other ways. With your support, we can make great progress in the protection and improvement of state trust lands and the quality of life for all New Mexicans.

Sincerely,

Ray Powell
Commissioner of Public Lands

Utilities' Future: Yes to Planning, No to Retail Wheeling

by Ken Hughes

Once the most prudent and staid of businesses, utilities in recent years have been as dynamic as the electricity they sell. The public monopoly utilities held for decades is rapidly changing, as it has for telecommunications, into an era of intense competition and diversity of options. Against this backdrop, a New Mexico legislative panel received testimony in August on the future of utilities in New Mexico. Speaking on behalf of the Sierra Club was Bruce Driver of the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies.

Driver argued against a limited and distorted approach to utility reform, known as "retail wheeling." If enacted into law, retail wheeling would only partially realize benefits of competition while destroying hopes of putting in place long-term planning needed to make the industry efficient and environmentally sound. Driver predicts the state "will encounter an enormous amount of uncertainty, litigation and delay if it moves toward a retail wheeling regime, . . . certain to add to the cost of meeting the demand for energy services in New Mexico."

Retail wheeling inherently conflicts with long-term planning, especially integrated resource planning, or IRP, now under consideration by the New Mexico Public Utilities Commission. IRP attempts to hold down costs for everyone, instead of the "cherry picking" approach of retail wheeling. IRP evaluates the full range of supply and demand options, then choose a diverse mix through competitive bidding among them. Retail wheeling uses the crude club of the market, focusing on cheap power sales rather than the quality of utility services provided. It certainly would not cover environmental externalities, costs which IRP could certainly acknowledge.

Driver urged the committee to reject retail wheeling in favor of a number of steps to bring down costs and avoid central powerplant investments:

- create a competitive wholesale power market
- place decisions for acquiring future resources under the IRP framework;
- craft regulatory rules that provide strong financial incentives for utilities to reduce costs;
- redouble efforts to sell surplus capacity in wholesale markets.

Freedom to Choose: Air Quality

by Ken Hughes

[The Campaign for Clean Air, by the Washington DC Regional Network for Livable Communities, has recently published a report, "More Freedom to Choose: A Plan to Improve Air Quality and Reduce Traffic Congestion." The following article is based on their analysis and findings.]

The health of many who live in the Land of Enchantment is impaired by air pollution. The Rio Grande and all the rivers that feed it are becoming more polluted from both air pollution that dissolves in the water and from sedimentation caused by grazing, mining, and logging as well as urban development. The quality of our lives is diminished by injuries suffered in auto accidents and time wasted in traffic jams. We miss out on many enjoyable activities simply because the "hassle" of getting to them is prohibitive. The money isn't there for all planned transportation improvements. Unfortunately, many of us seem to have no choice but to drive on dangerous or congested roads to do the things that we have to do.

The Sierra Club believes that, by expanding our transportation choices and opportunities, we improve both the quality of our air and the general quality of our lives. We suggest a diverse set of measures to enable our state to grow, while reducing dependence of single-occupant vehicles and expanding the freedom of New Mexicans to choose from transportation alternatives to accomplish their daily activities.

Transportation System Improvements

Before people can reduce their use of single-occupant vehicles, they must have alternatives. The following measures are proposed to improve New Mexico's transportation system. The Sierra Club recommends:

- Dramatically improve bus service by adding buses to existing routes;
- Fully integrate bicycle commuting into the system;
- Build more sidewalks and "calm" streets;
- Enhance bicycle and pedestrian access to transit;
- Provide state-of-the-art transit information systems;
- Expand private sector van and taxi services;
- Invest in Rio Rail and other major public transit improvements.

Land Use Management for Sustainable Development

Jurisdictions must cease granting permits for development of remote sites when land that is already served by streets, sewers, transit, and schools is underutilized or vacant. This is wasteful of resources and expensive in terms of per capita tax burden.

Similarly, certain road creation or expansion projects that are planned and in line for funding should be halted because they would exacerbate tendencies for sprawl and auto-oriented development. Because these projects would create more congestion and pollution, funding for these projects should go into transit-oriented development and public transit.

The Sierra Club proposes several techniques for accommodating new residents and businesses within areas served by existing infrastructure. Because of the size and significance in New Mexico of Federal facilities and, in Santa Fe, state government, special consideration needs to be given to the siting of government facilities. The Sierra Club recommends:

- Establish urban development boundaries;
- Include land use in public education campaign;
- Promote day care centers at bus stops;
- Provide bicycle parking at bus stops and racks on buses;
- Promote mixed-use development;
- Adopt bike and pedestrian-friendly site design standards;
- Reduce property tax rates on buildings in transit-friendly locations;
- Plan and build open space/greenbelts.

Education

Consumers need to be informed of the hidden costs associated with auto travel and urban sprawl. Part of that education will involve eliminating subsidies that inhibit our ability to make effective choices. After all, if driving appears to be cheap, why make an effort to locate a home or a business near transit? Reducing auto subsidies would open our eyes to choices that we don't even think about today.

Imposing additional taxes and fees at this stage, after having done everything possible to facilitate automobile usage for forty years, will strike some people as unfair. However, as taxpayers and consumers, we propose these automobile fees for two reasons, because they even out the subsidies for single occu-

pant driving and because they are essential to paying for real alternatives to driving alone.

The Sierra Club recommends:

- Cash-out employer paid parking;
- Increase parking fees region-wide;
- Price parking at non-work related destinations;
- Initiate pay-as-you drive auto insurance;
- Base fees on Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT);
- Install automated toll express lanes and congestion pricing on major highways and, in Albuquerque, bridges;
- Cash-out student parking at high school and college campuses;
- Impose more equitable user fees.

Additional transportation control measures that should be considered include promoting telecommuting, instituting measures to calm traffic in a way that will also promote safe pedestrian and cycling conditions, and voluntary employer trip reduction programs.

Outings Highlights; Ski Swaps

by John Turnbull

There are some particularly interesting things going on with the various groups' outings lately, and they all are, unless noted, open to any member, regardless of group.

Up-north backpackers wondering what the Gila area is all about, check the El Paso Group listings. A loop trip on 2 thru 5 Sep, through California Park. The leaves are changing in October in the Gila. Backpacks on the weekends of 8,9 Oct and 15, 16 Oct (Middle Fork, Gila River), and a service outing on 11 thru 13 Oct.

Down-southerners wondering what's so special about Utah's high desert, check Albuquerque Group's Utah trip on 1, 2 Oct, and Santa Fe Group's five-day odyssey to SE Utah's slickrock country from 6 thru 10 Oct..

Tall timber enthusiasts and skiers consider Santa Fe Group's overnighiter and hike on 1,2 Oct to scout out a ski trail in the scenic Valle Vidal area near Costilla. The Rio Grande Chapter will be hosting the Orange County, California Sierra Club for a ski week here next March. Watch for it.

Interested in petrified trees (immense ones!), dinosaurs, 100-million-year-old turtles, and fascinating geology? Check out the Santa Fe/Albuquerque Groups' car camp and hike to the De-Na-Zin Wilderness (BLM) in the San Juan Basin on 10,11 Sep.

(con't on page 24)